



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God — the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God's unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ's radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

NOVEMBER 10, 2019 — 11 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

You can have an impact
anywhere you are.
(Tony Dungy)

J.S. Bach's (1685-1750)
Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor is one of the most recognizable pieces of organ music. Scholars throughout the years have debated about whether or not the piece was actually composed by Johann Sebastian Bach, or if even it was originally written for the violin instead of the organ! This popular work has been transcribed and arranged countless times for a variety of instrumental arrangements, full symphony orchestra, concert band, wind ensemble, brass ensemble, in solo arrangements for violin, flute, horn, and even for rock band!

Better not to look at the
gift, but look at the
person you are giving to.
(Hubert van Zeller)

TIME OF PREPARATION

"Apologetics is the defense of Christianity on intellectual grounds in order to establish certain elements of faith as true and trustworthy. This is not to claim that the essential truth of Christianity is demonstrable by purely logical or scientific methods, but it does maintain that it is possible to show that its acceptance is entirely in accordance with the demands of reason."

— *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organ*

"Tocatta in D Minor, BWV 565" Johann Sebastian Bach

"Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier, BWV 731"

(Blessed Jesus, We Are Here)

Our worship begins with the Ministry of Music/Prelude.

Please use this time to fill out the red Friendship pads and for quiet worship preparation.

WELCOME & CHURCH NEWS

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

* SHARING GOD'S PEACE

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: La paz de Cristo esté con ustedes.

The peace of Christ be with you.

People: Y también contigo.

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 98)*

Russ Walker

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things.

People: Sing to the Lord with the harp and with the voice of song.

Leader: Let the sea rejoice and all that is in it, the lands and all those who dwell upon it.

People: Let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to judge the earth.

Leader: In righteousness shall God judge the world and all peoples with equity.
Come, let us worship God!

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN #694

AURELIA

"Great God of Every Blessing"

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.
(1 Peter 3:15)

It's really important that young women be reminded that their involvement matters and that their voice is heard.
Even if it feels like it's small, it really can make an impact.
(Meghan Markle)

The text of *For the Beauty of the Earth* was written by hymnist and poet Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917). He was influenced by the beauty of the countryside around him when he wrote this text at the age of 29 in 1864.

On this date in history was born Martin Luther, leader of the German Reformation (1483); coast-to-coast telephone service began with a call from Englewood, NJ to Alameda, CA (1951); *Sesame Street* debuted on 120 PBS stations (1969); and the Vietnam Memorial opened in Washington, D.C. (1982).

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
¡Alaben a Dios! Praise God!

SUNG RESPONSE HYMN #688 (verse 1)

MORECAMBE

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;
Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move;
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art,
And make me love thee as I ought to love.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

The Rev. Terri Pennybaker

COMMISSIONING OF ISRAEL/PALESTINE STUDY TOUR PARTICIPANTS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

MOMENTS WITH OUR CHILDREN

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Children of any age are welcome to come forward for Moments with our Children. Those who have completed first grade or younger are invited to attend our Extended Session program for the remainder of our worship time in the Nursery Suite on the first floor.

OFFERING INVITATION

The Rev. Schoenewolf

We offer our gifts in response to God's love, and the grace of Jesus Christ, which we seek to make known through the ministries of this congregation.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Mark Schweizer

*For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth, over and around us lies.
Christ, our Lord to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.
For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light.
Christ, our Lord to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.
For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild.
Christ, our Lord to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.
For your Church that evermore, lifts holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore, her pure sacrifice of love.
Christ, our Lord to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.*

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 20:20-26

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

VIDEO PRESENTATION

"You Raise Me Up"

SERMON

"The Rationale of Faith"

The Rev. Dr. Bush

* Indicates where you may rise in body or spirit.

STEWARDSHIP GLOSSARY:

Giving – donations given in the offering plate, mailed in, or deposited electronically separate from a written pledge

Pledging – sharing with the church your hoped-for financial support for the coming year

Tithing – seeking to provide up to 10% of your income in support of church ministries

PRAYER OF KING DAVID:

All things come from you, O God, and of your own have we given you.
(1 Chronicles 29:14)

PRAYER FOR THE EVENING:

Holy God, you have indeed done marvelous things and we give you thanks. Throughout this day we were challenged and found hope; we were surprised by the places and people who give witness to you. Be with us and those we love during the hours ahead. Comfort those who are uneasy or afraid. Guide us through the night to the dawn of a new day filled with hope and promise. Amen.

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from Romans 8)

We believe there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; for we know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are **called according to God's purpose. We are convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES & SPECIAL GIFTS The Rev. Dr. Bush
All are invited to bring forward completed pledge cards and place them in the baskets being held at the front of the sanctuary. We will also bring forward bags of food donated to assist the hunger programs of East End Cooperative Ministries.

Please stand and sing the following hymn during the presentation of Stewardship Pledges:

* #697

“Take My Life”

HENDON

audio repeat

“You Raise Me Up”

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Dr. Bush
The Rev. Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Schoenewolf

The congregation will respond to each petition with the following phrase:

People: Heaven and earth are yours, O Lord, and of your own we give you.

* RECESSIONAL HYMN #708

SCHUMANN

“We Give Thee But Thine Own”

* CHARGE & BENEDICTION

The Rev. Dr. Bush

POSTLUDE

“Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565”

Johann Sebastian Bach

Our worship concludes with the postlude. For the benefit of those who wish to listen to the postlude, please refrain from visiting with your neighbors until you have left the sanctuary, or until the postlude has concluded.



G iving Thanks F east

Join us in the Social Hall
after the 11 am service on
Sunday, Nov 24

Let's celebrate fellowship and give thanks
for each other by bringing a dish that
represents you! It could be your favorite
dish, a dish from your culture
or an old family recipe.
All are welcome!



As part of ELPC's mission to extend radical hospitality to all, our full worship service is now being livestreamed on Facebook and archived at www.ELPC.church. This notice is to inform you that by being in attendance, you give permission for incidences where you appear within the video. Should you have any questions, please see one of our pastors.

♦ PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy
The Rev. Terri Pennybaker
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Russ Walker
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *Organist/*
Music Director
ELPC Chancel Choir
Michael Painter, *Accompanist*
Acolytes: Amiyah Parker and Elliott Stephany
Beadle: Michele Bossers
Crucifer: Oliver Stephany
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ FELLOWSHIP TIME

Please join us in the Fellowship Room after worship for our *Fellowship Time*. All are welcome to attend!

♦ WORSHIP FLOWERS

The flowers today are in loving memory of Mary Martha and Dean Knox Crowther, and F. Alene and Wendell E. Minnigh, Sr., presented by their children Joel and Beth Minnigh.

♦ SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:45 am.....Journey Worship. An interactive, energetic service for those seeking a fresh encounter with the gospel of Jesus Christ. In Social Hall.
Nov 17 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

11 am.....Sanctuary Worship. Our largest service with a multi-cultural congregation and music from organ, piano and choir.
Nov 17 — The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf preaching.

Extended Session

After the *Moments with our Children* during the 11 am Sanctuary service, a children's ministry is offered with songs, Bible or mission stories, prayer, sharing and creative activities. A simple snack is served. In an effort to best know and care for your child, we ask that all families fill out a green Extended Session NAMETAG that your child wears to Extended Session every week.

* *Young Children's Ministry for infants and toddlers (up to age 3)* — First Floor Nursery. Every Sunday.

* *Pre-school age children (through grade 1)* — Room 110B.

♦ WEEKDAY WORSHIP

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

A 38-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward; an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation.

Mondays, 9 am to 1 pm

Wednesdays, 9 am to 9 pm

Taizé Sung Prayer

Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France.

Wednesdays, 7 pm

Prayer Room (*in Highland Ave hallway*)

Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness that is ELPC.

Available everyday

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are grateful to have you join us for worship this morning and ask you to register your name in our Friendship Book.

To learn more about our programs, church activities and volunteer services, we invite you to also:

Stay after today's service for our *Fellowship Time* in the 1st floor Fellowship Room. Identify yourself as a newcomer, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about ELPC.

Pick up a copy of our newsletter, the *Reaching Out*, either in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk near the Highland Avenue doors.

Attend an *Inquirers' Class* on Sundays, Dec 1 and 8 during the Sunday School hour to learn more about ELPC, Presbyterian theology, and to explore membership. Please see contact Gloria Knopp (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x122) for more info.

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.



TODAY AT ELPC

Stewardship Sunday

Today we celebrate *Stewardship Sunday*. It is our opportunity to offer pledges and gifts that will impact God's world. This year, we are hoping to increase our pledges by 7%. If you have pledged in the past, we ask that you consider increasing your gift. If you have given, but have not pledged, we ask that you consider pledging so that we can plan more responsibly. If you have never pledged, we invite you to begin this discipline of faith. To pledge online, please visit www.elpc.church/pledge.

Wholistic Wellness Ministry Meet and Greet

Please join us in the McKelvy Room after worship to learn more about the Wholistic Wellness Ministry. We will have refreshments. A health questionnaire will be distributed before today's 11 am service; please complete and bring it with you to the *Meet and Greet*.

Book Signing and Reading by Jeanne Marie Laskas

This morning, Pennsylvania author Jeanne Marie Laskas was interviewed by Pastor Randy about her recent books, including her exposé on football injuries (*Concussion*), the range of blue collar jobs in the U.S. (*Hidden America*), and the letters received by President Obama from ordinary citizens (*To Obama: With Love, Joy, Anger, and Hope*). Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Esquire*, and other places. She will have a book reading and signing after worship in the Garth Overlook Room. Please join us!

Café Justo Coffee for Sale

Café Justo Coffee will be available for sale during today's *Fellowship Time*. For just \$10/pound, your purchase will support this fair trade cooperative and help provide a sustainable income. Check or cash only please.

Today's Deacons-On-Duty (DOD)

Every Sunday, a DOD (Deacon-on-Duty) is available to assist with any emergencies that may occur during our worship services.

The *Sanctuary* service DOD is **Linda Harrington**.

Doing Good Together!

Youth in grades 4-12 are invited to participate in *Doing Good Together!*—a service-based partnership between Rodef Shalom and ELPC—today from Noon-3pm. Lunch provided. See Sara Hackett after the service to participate.

Church Tour

Join Penn Hackney for a tour of the Trinity Chapel today after worship. Please gather in the front of the Sanctuary.

YAM November Book Drive

The Young Adult Ministry is collecting books for *Book'Em*, a non-profit organization based in Pittsburgh that sends reading and education material to prisoners across Pennsylvania. They are collecting specifically these books: Art & Music History, Arts & Crafts/Hobbies, Puzzles, History, Automotive/Car-Related, Computer Science/Programming, Native American/Indigenous Authors, Beginning Languages, Superhero Comics, Small Business Ideas/Self-Employment and Paperback Dictionaries. Please do not bring books that have spiral binding, hardbacks (*regular sized hardback books are fine*), writing/underlining, are musty, stained or outdated. A box is located in the Highland Lobby for donations.

The de Chardin Project

A love story about the origins of the universe.

Saturday, November 23 • 7:30 pm

Chapel at East Liberty Presbyterian Church

The *de Chardin Project* is a play about Jesuit priest, scientist and philosopher Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955). Silenced and exiled by the church, de Chardin, a renowned paleontologist, crossed continents searching for the missing link between his love for God and his love of Science. His groundbreaking discoveries in human evolution transcended barriers between Faith and Science. And today, his work is regarded as having changed the conversation about cosmology, evolution and theology.

In the play, de Chardin, having suffered a cerebral hemorrhage, finds himself beyond the physical world and engaged with a mysterious guide who leads him on the ultimate adventure: the excavation of himself. The play is a Dora Mavor Moore Award winner for Outstanding New Play (Independent Category).

We are delighted to be joined by the playwright, Adam Seybold (son of ELPC members Kevin and Virginia Seybold), and his wife, actress Kate Fenton, for a dramatic reading of this fascinating exploration of life, science and faith!

Tickets are available for \$10 from Eventbrite at

www.tiny.cc/deChardin



*As a caring congregation of faith, we ask you to
remember the following people in your prayers:*

Carol Bonner, Henk Bossers,
David Carl's friend's son Morgan,
Molly Dimond-Stephany's sister-in-law,
Jan Herzer, Jean Kennedy, Lee Lewand,
Deborah Marx's friend Sharon,
Julianne McAdoo, and Pat Valoon.

*Our condolences to the family of **Lois Fetzer** on her passing.*

*Our condolences to **Pam Walaski** on her father's passing.*

Committee Meetings This Week

The church building will be closed tomorrow for Veterans' Day.

Deacons.....Tuesday, 7:00 pm (Garth Overlook Rm)

Mission Board.....Thursday, 5:30 pm (2nd fl Library)

No Knitting Class — Nov 11

Please note there will be no evening knitting class tomorrow.

Tween Night — Nov 15

Youth in grades 4–6 are invited to enjoy pizza, bowling, and basketball at ELPC on Friday, Nov 15 from 6–8 pm for *Tween Night!* Friends are welcome too!

LGBTQ Ministry Spiritual Gathering — Nov 17

You are invited to the next spiritual gathering of ELPC's LGBTQ Ministry on Sunday, Nov 17 at 12:30 pm as we share food and fellowship. This month we will share affirmations with the group. Allies and LGBTQIA+ folks alike are welcome. Contact Wil Forrest to attend (412.441.3800 x118; Wil@coh.net).

Confirmation Class Meeting — Nov 17

The next Confirmation Class meeting will be on Sunday, Nov 17 from 12:30–3:30 pm. For more information, please contact Sara Hackett or Pastor Heather.

Reducing Gun Violence Address by Ed Gainey — Nov 17

State Representative Ed Gainey will visit ELPC on Sunday, Nov 17 at 12:30 pm in the Good Samaritan Room to address gun violence. Rep. Gainey is the sponsor of House of Representative Bill 307 to ban the possession, purchase, transfer, use, or manufacture of assault weapons. Attendees will have the opportunity to send a postcard in support of Bill 307 to the representative who is blocking Rep. Gainey's bill. His visit is sponsored by the Peace Committee. Light refreshments will be provided.

Volunteers Needed for Thanksgiving Feast — Nov 24

Our meal together in November is one of our largest attended meals here at ELPC. We could not host such a great time together without all of you! There are different times throughout this day to volunteer. We need volunteers to help set up, greet, serve, tear down, clean up, and wash dishes. If you are available to help, contact Kelli Booher (KelliB@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x114).

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Community Shopping Event — Nov 12

Shop at Ten Thousand Villages (5820 Forbes Ave, 15217) on Tuesday, Nov 12 from 6–8 pm and a percentage of your purchase will benefit OIKOCREDIT US, a nonprofit that supports Oikocredit International's work to improve living standards for low-income people in Latin American, Africa and Asia by investing in sustainable agriculture, financial inclusion and clean energy.

Giving Thanks Feast — Nov 24

All are invited to our *Giving Thanks Feast* following Sanctuary worship on Sunday, Nov 24. This year, let's celebrate fellowship and give thanks for each other by bringing a dish that represents you! It could be your favorite dish, a dish from your culture or an old family recipe. You will have a chance to read about other's dishes and tell about your own by filling out a label for your dish. Labels can be filled out on Nov 24, or can be picked up at the church (by the information screen in the Highland hallway). A main course and salad will be provided.

Church Tour — Nov 24

On Sunday, Nov 24 after worship, learn about our church's beautiful stained glass windows with guide Tom Morton. Please gather in Highland Lobby.

Hanging of the Greens — Nov 30

The church season of Advent begins on the first Sunday in December. In preparation for this, the Worship, Music & Arts Committee invites you to help put up some Christmas trees, garlands, and Advent decorations on Saturday, Nov 30 from 10 am–1pm. Contact Norma (Norma@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x111) if you can help!

Christmas Eve Worship Services

The Christmas Eve late service time is earlier this year – pre-service music will begin at 9:30 pm, and the service will start at 10 pm. The *family* service will remain at 5 pm.

— SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES —

Nov 17 ♦ 9:45 to 10:45 am

Contemporaries (McKelvy Rm) — “Salvation, Abundant Life Now” presented by Rita and Charlie Nordquist

Journey with Scripture (Highland Rm) — Isaiah 65:17–25; Isaiah 12; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13; Luke 21:5–19 facilitated by Lora Bethea and Jan Irvin

Seekers (Garth Overlook Rm) — “What Sharia Law Means to an American Muslim” presented by Aliya Kahn

Soul Food (Good Samaritan Rm) — A discussion of *Inspired—Loving the Bible Again, Resistance Stories*, led by the Rev. Joe Hajdu, Shirley Fair, Michele Bossers, and Linda Harrington